

North American Wetlands Conservation Council Meeting Highlights

March 18, 2008

The North American Wetlands Conservation Council (Council) met on March 18, 2008, in Cambridge, MD, to select wetlands conservation projects that will be recommended to the Migratory Bird Conservation Commission (Commission) for funding approval on June 11, 2008.

The total funding of \$84,434,257 for Fiscal Year (FY) 2008 is allocated as follows: All Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection, and Restoration Act receipts (\$18,161,832) must be used in U.S. coastal ecosystems. Additionally, \$1,689,600 of the FY 2008 total is derived from fines paid under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and must be used for wetland conservation projects within Massachusetts. All other receipts will be allocated 49% to US, 45% to Canadian and 6% to Mexican projects. This results in country allocations of: United States, \$54,364,740 (including \$2,000,000 allocated for the Small Grants Program); Canada, \$26,507,179; and Mexico, \$3,562,338.

Totals of \$24,885,043 and \$32,579,187 of this FY 2008 funding has been spent on proposals approved by the Commission on September 12, 2007 and March 12, 2008, respectively, leaving \$26,970,027 in available funding allocated as follows: United States, \$6,625,633 (including \$2,000,000 allocated for the Small Grants Program); Canada, \$19,703,179; Mexico, \$641,215.

Project Proposal Recommendations

The Council selected the following 62 U.S. Small Grant Program proposals, reflecting a total of \$4,176,438 in funding. Because the Commission previously authorized a base allocation of \$2,000,000 with funding authorized up to \$2,500,000 for the Small Grants program in 2007, the Council will recommend that the Commission authorize an additional \$1,676,438 to fully fund this slate. The partnership contributions from these 62 proposals amount to \$28,895,544.

American Bottom Ecosystem Wetland Protection, IL
Ash Creek Wildlife Area Wetland Enhancement Project, CA
Augres Nature Preserve / Wetlands Preservation, MI
Big Marsh Lake Restoration, MI
Caloosahatchee Creeks Preserve Wetland Restoration, FL
Caswell Game Land Managed Wetlands Enhancement Project, NC
Cathance River: Head of Tide, ME
Cedar Lake Conservation Easements, MN
Central Ohio Black Duck Initiative, OH
Edger Waterfowl Production Area Habitat Enhancement Project, MI
Erickson - Lidstrom WMA Project, MN
Flatbrook Valley Conservation Project, NJ
Francis Marion National Forest, SC
GCJV Mottled Duck Conservation Plan Initiative II, TX

Hailand Nature Preserve, MI
Hamilton Audubon Sanctuary Property Acquisition, ME
Invasive Species Eradication and Habitat Enrichment in the Indian River Lagoon, FL
Iowa Prairie Pothole Upland Habitat Enhancement Project, IA
Iowa Prairie Rivers Wetland and Grassland Enhancement, IA
Jenna Welch Playa Preserve Project, TX
Keough Effigy Preserve, IL
Killebrew Tract Acquisition - Shelton Ferry Wetlands, TN
Kingston - Tucker, NH
Kiowa Creek Natural Area, CO
La Jencia Creek Riparian / Wetland Restoration, NM
Lake Augusta Wetland Complexes, MN
Lee Hofer Waterfowl Production Area Acquisition, SD
Love Lake Springs, WI
Lyman County Wetland Easement Project, SD
Mancos River Riparian Habitat Protection Project, CO
Meadow Valley Flowage Wetland Enhancement Project, WI
Mollidgewock Brook Conservation Project, NH
Mud Lake Acquisition Project, OH
New State Big Roller Water Control Project, UT
Northeastern Indiana Wetland / Grassland Restoration Program II, IN
Northwest Wisconsin Wetland and Grassland Program, WI
Parker River and Rachel Carson National Wildlife Refuges, MA, ME
Perch Lake East, MN
Perch Lake West, MN
Platte River Bottom Wetlands Enhancement Project, NE
Playa Management and Restoration in the Texas High Plains, TX
Playa Protection in Curry and Quay Counties, NM, NM
Rabbit River Restoration II, MN
Restoration of Impounded Tidal Wetlands on Nemours Plantation, SC
Restoring Wet and Mesic Prairie in the Bluestem Prairie Complex, MN
Rockwood Island Restoration Project, IL
Sacred Heart Wetlands, MN
Salmon Falls Headwaters Project, NH
San Francisco Unit, Minnesota, MN
South Pond Conservation Area Acquisition, ME
St. George River Coastal Wetlands Acquisition Project, ME
Swan Lake Minnesota, MN
The Basin, Vinalhaven Acquisition, ME
The Fairchild Easement, ME
Thousand Acre Swamp Conservation Project, MA
Una Lake Wetlands Acquisition and Restoration I, CA
Upper Saco River II: Russell Tracts, ME
Wabash River National Road Reservation, IN
Wetland Restoration on Sanibel Island, FL
Wright Marsh Restoration and Enhancement Project, OH

Wyoming North Platte Wetlands Initiative I, WY
Yuma East Wetlands Headstream - McVey 21.5 Acre Wetland Restoration, AZ

The Council also recommended that the Commission approve a FY 2009 Small Grant funding level of up to \$5M.

The Council selected four Canadian proposals, requesting a total of \$19,703,179 to present to the Commission. The partnerships will add a total of \$43,528,337 to achieve their conservation goals.

Ducks Unlimited Canada Conservation of Critical Wetlands and Associated Upland Habitats in British Columbia, British Columbia
Ducks Unlimited Canada Eastern Habitat Joint Venture Wetlands Conservation, Ontario, Quebec, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, Newfoundland, Labrador
Ducks Unlimited Canada Prairie/Parkland and Western Boreal Habitat Program, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, British Columbia, Yukon Territory, Northwest Territory
Friends of The Nature Conservancy of Canada Quebec and Atlantic: Protecting Wetland and Upland Habitat, Quebec, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia

The Council selected two Mexican proposals, requesting a total of \$641,215 to present to the Commission. The partnerships will add a total of \$1,398,115 to achieve their conservation goals.

Developing a Wetland Coastal Corridor Framework for Management for the Gulf of California, Sonora, Sinaloa, Nayarit
Land Protection and Environmental Education in the Alvarado Wetlands, Phase III, Veracruz

The balance of FY 2008 funds will be allocated as follows: U.S., \$2,449,195; Canada, \$0; Mexico, \$0.

Scheduling

The next Council meetings will be held in Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island, Canada, on July 8, 2008.

Meeting Summary

For a complete meeting summary, contact David Buie or Bonnie Gaukler at (703) 358-1784, dbhc@fws.gov.